

# Bald Cypress

**Info Sheet**  
*Taxodium distichum*

Bald Cypress, which is native to the Southeast U.S., is a tall growing, deciduous shade tree. This tree is often found growing in standing water of wetland regions where excess moisture is assured. Although this tree is considered "moisture-loving", drought tolerance is considered high and trees do well in residential landscapes. The leaves of the Bald Cypress are fern-like with a fine, dainty texture. The arrangement of lateral branches along with this fern-like foliage helps the tree form a pyramidal shape, especially when young. During the cooler months of fall, leaves turn brown and fall, leaving the tree bare until the following spring. Growth rate of the Bald Cypress is considered moderate and trees may reach a maximum height of 50 feet or more in time. In addition, the Bald Cypress has a moderate salt tolerance and may be used in coastal regions away from damaging salt spray. The wood of Bald Cypress is rot resistant and has been used for many years to make outdoor furniture and fences.

Pond Cypress, *Taxodium ascendens*, is closely related to the Bald Cypress. The biggest differences are that the Pond Cypress grows 75ft high but only 15-20 ft wide, develops fewer cypress knees and does not tolerate conditions as wet as Bald Cypress.

## PLANTING

Bald Cypress grows well in a wide range of soils. Potted specimens should be set in the ground at soil level and the surrounding soil should be improved by mixing in organic matter such as Rockledge Gardens planting mix. Mix **Espoma Bio-tone Starter** in the soil when planting. This promotes healthy root growth. If trees are to be planted in a poorly drained area, wait until the area dries out before planting. Established trees can handle soggy conditions well. Trees planted in open lawn areas should have a 3-4ft mulched ring left around the base to conserve moisture and

help protect the trunk from possible damage from lawn maintenance equipment. Water newly planted trees three times a week for three weeks then water as needed until trees are well established.

## FERTILIZING

Bald Cypress requires only two applications of fertilizer each year. Fertilize in February and again in May with **Espoma Tree-Tone**. Distribute fertilizer lightly over the entire root area, which extends out to and just beyond the canopy spread of the tree.

## PLANT PROBLEMS

No serious problems with this low maintenance, native tree.

# Rockledge Gardens



2153 S. U.S. #1 • Rockledge, FL 32955

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